

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PASOK CONVENTION AND RESULTS

1. ACCORDING TO ATHINAIKI, DAILY SPOKESMAN FOR THE PAN-HELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK), 467 MEMBERS MET IN WHAT PASOK CALLS ITS "PRE-CONVENTION" ON MAR 16 AND ELECTED A NEW 75 MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE PAPER DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS TAKING PLACE IN A "CALM AND PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE" BUT ACKNOWLEDGED A "QUITE DIFFICULT FIGHT" TOOK PLACE IN ELECTING THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FROM AMONG 176 CANDIDATES.

2. THE PRE CONVENTION ALSO SET NEW ORGANIZATIONAL RULES FOR PASOK. IT ESTABLISHED THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS THE HIGHEST ORGAN OF THE PARTY WHICH SETS GENERAL POLICIES, ACTING COLLECTIVELY AND DEMOCRATICALLY. AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF 9-13 MEMBERS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE PARTY PRESIDENT (I.E. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU), FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE EXERCISES OVERALL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, COORDINATING AND CONTROLLING THE OPERATIONS OF SUBORDINATE UNITS OF THE MOVEMENT. THE PRESIDENT REPRESENTS THE PASOK MOVEMENT IN ALL EXTERNAL MATTERS, PROPOSES THE MOVEMENTS IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL LINES, AND PRSIDES OVER THE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE PASOK PARLIAMENTARY GROUP.

A 7 MEMBER COORDINATING COMMITTEE WILL ASSIST THE WORK OF THIS LATTER GROUP COMPOSED OF PAPANDREOU AND THREE MEMBERS EACH FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3. COMMENT: THE SESSION WAS EXPECTED TO BE STORMY--AND IT WAS. PAPANDREOU WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HIS ARBITRARY ACTION SOME WEEKS AGO IN UNILATERALLY CONVENING THE "PRE-CONVENTION." PAPANDREOU APPEARS TO HAVE WON A CLEAR MAJORITY OF THE NEW SEVENTY FIVE MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IT WAS WIDELY CHARGED BEFORE THE MEETING THAT HE PACKED THE CONVENTION TO ACHIEVE THIS END. WHETHER PASOK SUSTAINS A WALK OUT OF THE DISSIDENTS, WHO ARE PRIMARILY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORMER DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE, MAY DEPEND NOW ON WHETHER PAPANDREOU EXERCISES HIS NEW APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY TO FREEZE OUT ALL OPPONENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH THE PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPPOSITION TO PAPANDREOU DO NOT VARY NOTICEABLY IN THEIR POLITICS FROM THE MAINSTREAM OF PASOK, PAPANDREOU IN RECENT SPEECHES HAS HARANGUED AGAINST REACTIONARY ELEMENTS IN THE PARTY AND ATTACKED THE DANGERS OF FACTIONALISM. ATHINAIKI HEADLINED ITS REPORT ON THE CONVENTION: "THE LEFT' PREVAILED."

4. PAPANDREOU HAS EMERGED WITH HIS AUTHORITY AS THE UNDISPUTED LEADER OF PASOK CONFIRMED AND ENLARGED, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE PASOK PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE FACT THAT THE CONVENTION TOOK PLACE IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT PASOK IS CONSIDERABLY FURTHER ALONG IN ITS PROGRAM OF INTERNAL ORGANIZATION THAN EITHER THE NEW DEMOCRACY OR THE CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES PARTIES. HOWEVER, THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF THE FORMER VOTED LAST WEEK AUTHORIZING CARAMANLIS TO APPOINT A 20 MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ND AND HE IS EXPECTED TO DO THIS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. CU/NF LEADER MAVROS IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT THIS WEEK TO THE CU/NF PARLIAMENTARY GROUP REGARDING THE ELECTION OF A CU/NF CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO A DEPUTY OF CU/NF, ITS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HAS CAUCUSED FIVE TIMES RECENTLY OVER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO DECIDE ON WHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASIS TO CONSTITUTE A CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PARTY.
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